



Step 3: Estimate Values

In this scoring step, each solution resulting from step 2 is assessed for cost, benefit and confidence in those estimates and assigned a representative value.

3.1 Financial Estimates (Cost and Contributions)

The financial estimate provides a full picture of the cost for the suggested solution. It may be difficult to estimate some of the costs. However, it is more difficult to consider a solution with only partial information on its cost, or none at all. Leverage the knowledge and experience of other stakeholders or partner organizations to estimate costs, if necessary. The advisory panel should not allow suggested solutions with incomplete financial estimates to progress to the next step unless more information is collected.

The **Financial Estimate Worksheet** also documents information on contributions (e.g., donations, volunteer time, grants, etc.) that can offset costs for consideration in the final prioritization process.

The Financial Estimate Worksheet documents estimated costs and considers:

- Start up or one-time costs such as equipment, facility renovation, software or permits
- Recurring direct expenses such as food, transportation, marketing and personnel
- Recurring indirect expenses such as rent, repairs and insurance
- Contributions such as donations, grants and in-kind contributions

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS
established the criteria — and weights —
for the impact score, which reflect
national public health priorities.

3.2 Impact Score (Benefit)

The impact score describes how a suggested solution may benefit a range of food security-related indicators. To determine this score, the advisory panel assigns a rating for each criterion in the **Impact Score Worksheet** — from zero (no expected impact) to three (high expected impact). However, not all criterion are considered equally. Each criterion is weighted to establish its relative importance in the final score with a maximum possible score of 300.

“We thought certain interventions would work, but when we started putting in scores, we realized what was and wasn’t practical.”

Experts in food security and public health selected each criterion and its weight of relative importance considering overall public health priorities in the United States (the criteria and weights are listed in the **Impact Score Worksheet**). In some instances outside the United States, it may be necessary to adapt the criteria or weights. However, to ensure the process is fair and transparent, adjustments should be made before rating any solution, with the same objective criteria and weights applied to each solution. If the advisory panel finds the criteria to be too technical or outside its expertise, they can adopt a more general, discussion-based approach to estimate impact; however, this will be more susceptible to bias.

3.3 Uncertainty Score

The financial estimate and impact score provide information that is essential for the final prioritization step. However, there may still be some uncertainty in those estimates when moving forward with the best available information. The uncertainty score describes the confidence in the financial estimate and impact score. For example, if a community has never attempted a suggested solution, the uncertainty score for that solution would likely be higher than for a solution that has been piloted.

The **Uncertainty Score Worksheet** considers a short set of indicators related to the impact score and financial estimate. The panel assigns each indicator a value — from zero (very confident, little uncertainty) to three (no confidence, significant uncertainty) — related to the level of uncertainty of the estimate for that indicator. As with the impact score, subject matter experts selected these criteria. If strongly justified, the criteria may be adjusted but only before any of the solutions are rated. The total score (maximum possible is 15) allows uncertainty to be considered in the prioritization process.

The Impact Score Worksheet produces a score that considers impact on:

- Quality, quantity and variety of available food
- Obesity, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies
- The community's emergency preparedness
- Building partnerships and achieving key priorities

Other considerations include ease of implementation, potential for monitoring and evaluation, as well as equity and sustainability

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I liked the uncertainty scoring. Often, people talk about budget and ideas but not about risk of a program not working.
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